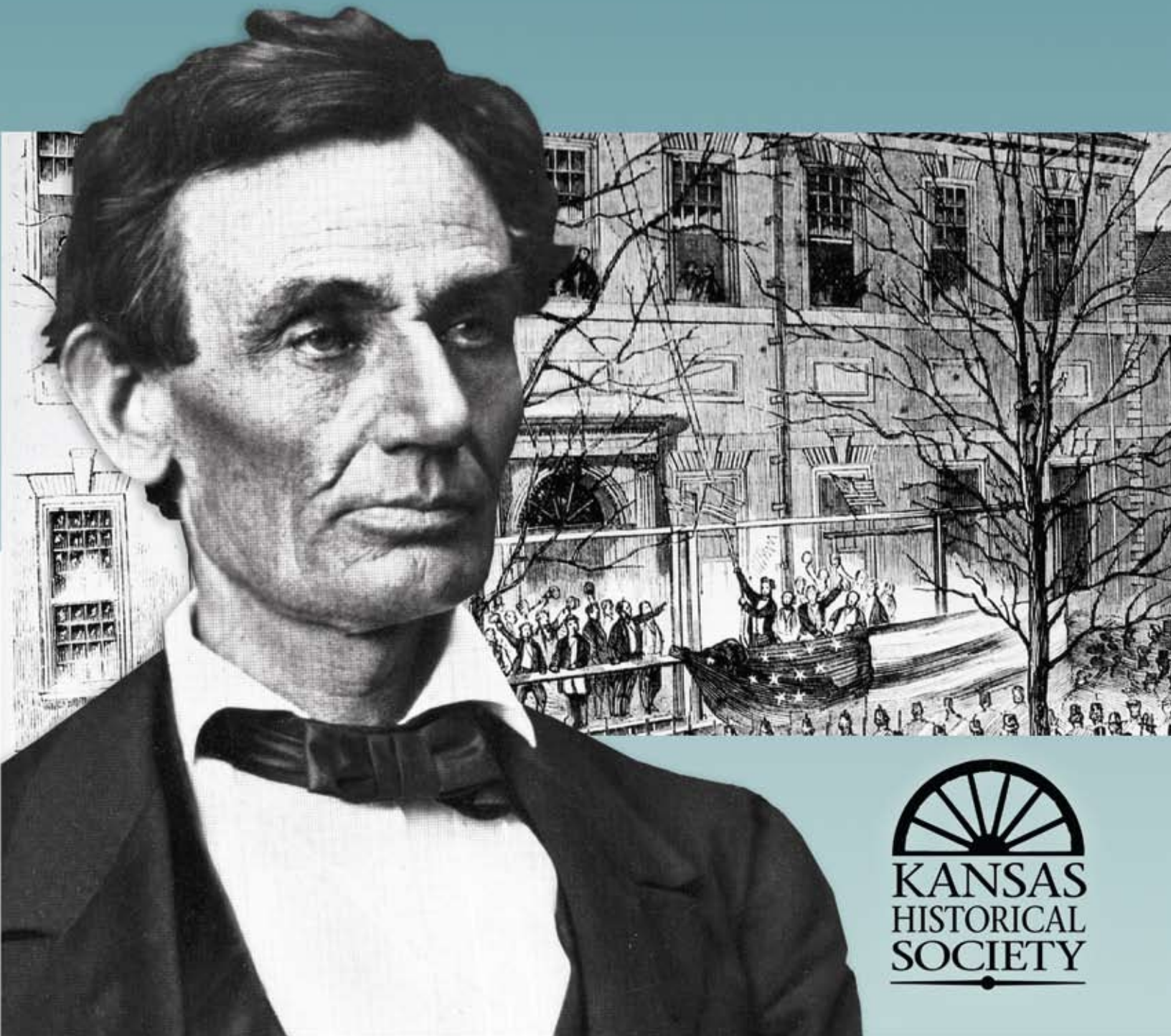


Winter 2008

Reflections



REAL PEOPLE. REAL STORIES.

Winter 2008

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4

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On the cover: Abraham Lincoln visited Kansas in 1859 hoping to attract supporters for his 1860 presidential campaign.

Reflections

In 2011 Kansas will celebrate its statehood sesquicentennial. "Countdown to Statehood" is a series of articles depicting key events from Kansas' territorial days and related commemoration events sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society.

Countdown to Statehood: John Brown writes "Parallels," January 1859

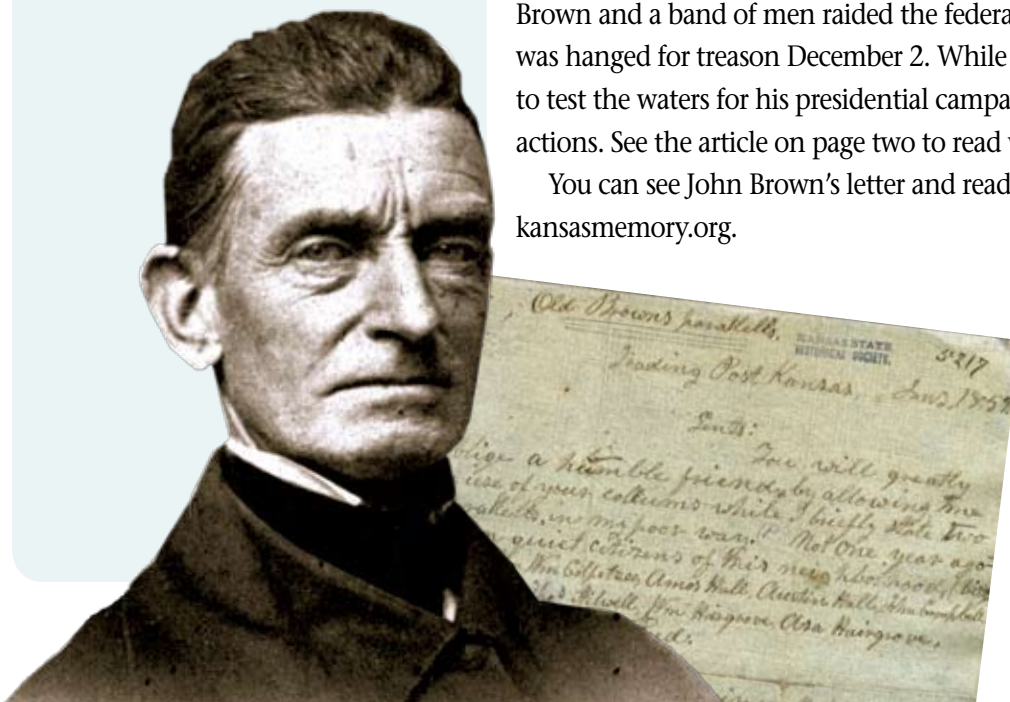
In December 1858 John Brown led a raid into Missouri, freeing 11 enslaved people and killing one man. Missouri authorities called for his arrest and the return of those Brown had freed. In January 1859 he wrote a letter to the *Lawrence Republican* from the Moneka home of his friend Augustus Wattles. To protect Wattles, Brown indicated in the correspondence that he was writing from Trading Post, the location of the Marais des Cygnes Massacre. In the letter Brown drew parallels between the May 1858 massacre, in which five free-state men were killed, and his raid into Missouri. He objected to being pursued by the law while nothing was done to find those responsible for the deaths of the men near Trading Post.

Eleven persons are forcibly restored to their natural and inalienable rights, with but one man killed, and all "hell is stirred, from beneath."

The letter didn't mention Brown's part in the earlier Pottawatomie Massacre (May 1856), where five proslavery sympathizers died.

Brown left Kansas Territory on January 20, telling Wattles "I shall now leave Kansas; probably you will never see me again; I consider it my duty to draw the scene of the excitement to some other part of the country." In October 1859 Brown and a band of men raided the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He was hanged for treason December 2. While Abraham Lincoln was visiting Kansas to test the waters for his presidential campaign, he commented on Brown's actions. See the article on page two to read what he said.

You can see John Brown's letter and read the transcription at kansasmemory.org.



Welcome

The Winter issue of *Reflections* gives a glimpse into a very exciting future for the Historical Society, with a preview of the *Lincoln in Kansas* exhibit and good news about a new partnership with Wal-Mart Stores that will impact future exhibits. But before we close the book on this year, we invite you to view *2008 A Year in Review* video at kshs.org/real_people/videos.htm. It's our way of sharing our successes with all Kansans.

January 29, 2009, marks the 148th anniversary of Kansas statehood. We're celebrating with hundreds of children throughout the state with a program at the Kansas Museum of History and by offering teachers Kansas Day materials online at kshs.org. Some of our state historic sites are also sponsoring Kansas Day activities. In our continuing series on Historical Society staff, we are pleased to feature Richard Gould, site administrator at Pawnee Indian Museum State Historic Site in Republic County, who is hosting a Kansas Day event.

A native of Concordia, Richard joined the Historical Society while earning his history and social science degrees at Kansas State University. After working at Goodnow House State Historic Site, he moved to Pawnee Indian Museum in 1989.

"I kind of came home when I started at Pawnee Indian Museum," Richard said. "Six of my great-great-grandparents homesteaded in Republic County in the 1870s."

Richard said that the Kansas Day commemoration at his site will include a display of antique pre-statehood maps to show that the area was once home to many



Indian nations, including the Pawnee, Cheyenne, Kansa, Osage, Comanche, Kiowa, Arapaho, and Apache. He reminds readers that while present-day Kansans commemorate the birth of our state it must also be remembered that native peoples lived and worked on the land long before statehood.



The Kansas Historical Society is a state agency whose vision is to enrich people's lives by connecting them to the past. The Historical Society operates 16 state historic sites in communities across Kansas, as well as the Kansas Museum of History, Kansas State Capitol Tour Center, and State Archives & Library in Topeka. KSHS, Inc., is a non-profit organization that works to financially support the programs of the state agency.

Lincoln in Kansas

While testing the waters for a possible presidential campaign, Abraham Lincoln visited Kansas. A few months later, he advised a young lawyer looking for a place to practice, “If I went west, I think I would go to Kansas...”



Lincoln was already a national figure when he made his visit in late 1859, just one year after the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates. Lincoln supporters in Kansas wanted him to visit to boost their chances in the territorial elections. Lincoln was interested in creating contacts for his law firm and his presidential campaign.

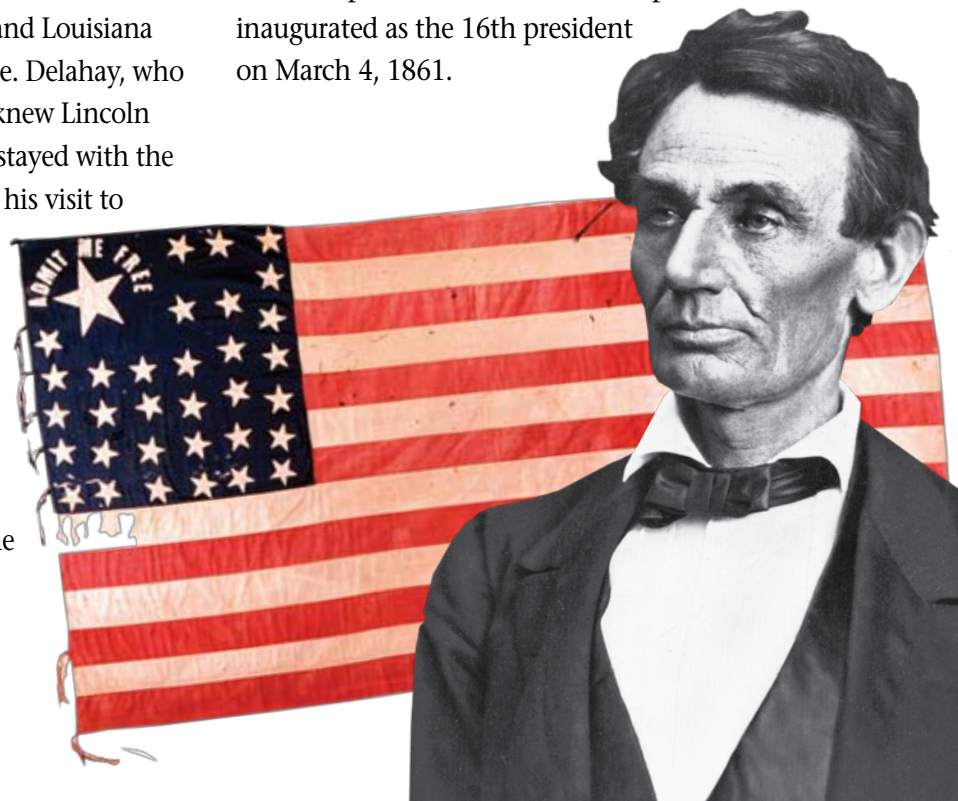
Lincoln's trip to Kansas took him through Doniphan, Atchison, and Leavenworth counties. When making his first stop in Elwood on November 30, Lincoln commented on John Brown, who would be hanged for treason three days later for his raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. Lincoln insisted that the slavery issue could be settled peacefully and said, “John Brown has shown great courage, rare unselfishness . . . But no man, north or south, can approve of violence and crime.”

The next day Lincoln traveled to Troy and Doniphan. He visited Atchison on December 2 and then traveled to Leavenworth, a guest in the home of Mark and Louisiana Delahay, a relative on Lincoln's mother's side. Delahay, who helped found the Kansas Republican Party, knew Lincoln when they were lawyers in Illinois. Lincoln stayed with the Delahays until December 7, when he ended his visit to Kansas.

Five months later Lincoln received his first endorsement as a presidential candidate from the Illinois Republican State Convention. The predominant – and for some the only – issue in the 1860 presidential campaign was slavery. Lincoln focused most of his campaign on the

northern states, trying to galvanize the support of moderates instead of swaying proslavery Democrats. Campaign medals touted “Freedom National. Slavery Sectional.” and “Millions for Freedom, Not One Cent for Slavery.” Kansas, still a territory because of the slavery question, had captured the attention of the nation. “Admit Me Free” flags appeared in the northern states, representing the Kansas free-state or Republican viewpoint.

Lincoln's election as president of the United States on November 6, 1860, touched off a series of events that ultimately led to the Civil War. Within weeks, southern states began seceding, reducing the number of votes opposing Kansas' admission as a free state. Kansas was admitted to the Union as the 34th state on January 29, 1861. As president-elect, Lincoln commemorated the event on Washington's birthday by raising a 34-star flag over Independence Hall in Philadelphia. He was inaugurated as the 16th president on March 4, 1861.



Above, campaign buttons; right, this flag flew in Pennsylvania during the 1860 presidential campaign.



This home in Troy may be the only building that remains from the time of Lincoln's visit.

Although much of his presidency focused on the Civil War and the end of slavery in the United States, Lincoln signed two pieces of legislation that had far-reaching effects on Kansas: the Homestead Act and the Morrill Land Grant College Act. The former led to a population explosion in Kansas while the latter led to the creation of Kansas State University.

On April 14, 1865, less than a week after the Confederate Army's surrender, President Lincoln was assassinated while watching *Our American Cousin* at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. A funeral train carried Lincoln's remains through many states on its way to Illinois, making periodic stops in communities to allow the public to mourn. Commemorative medals and other memorabilia marked Lincoln's passing. One medal read, "He is in glory and the nation is in tears."

Lincoln had many connections with Kansans during his life – and even in his death. T.D. Bancroft was at Ford's Theatre when Lincoln was shot. He dipped a program from the performance in the trail of blood and later donated it to the Kansas Historical Society. Boston Corbett, who shot and killed Lincoln assassin John Wilkes Booth, later moved to Kansas. Kansan Vinnie Ream moved to Washington, D.C., to work as a sculptor. She was granted the honor of creating a sculpture of President Lincoln and had him in her studio for a sitting on the day of his assassination. Ream was later commissioned to create a Lincoln statue for the U.S. Capitol.

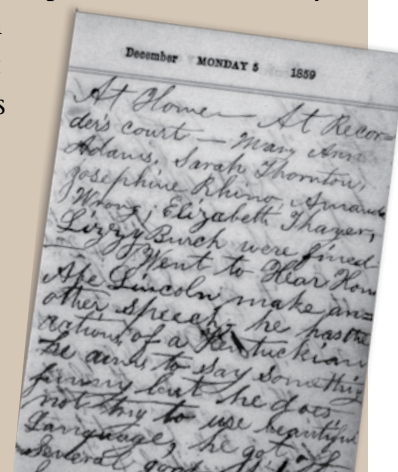
VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

See the blood-stained program collected by Kansan T.D. Bancroft when you visit the *Lincoln in Kansas* special exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History. The exhibit runs January 29 - July 26, 2009, and celebrates the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth and the sesquicentennial of his visit to Kansas. kshs.org/places/museum



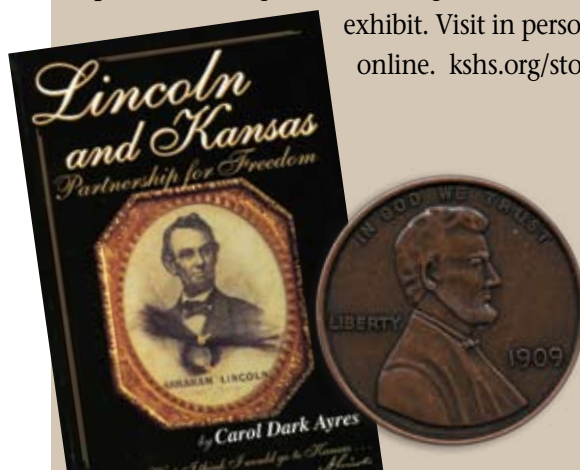
BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Leavenworth attorney Daniel Mulford Valentine wrote about Lincoln's Leavenworth speeches in his 1859 diary. The diary can be found on *Kansas Memory*, the largest digital collection of images and documents from Kansas history. kansasmemory.org



SHOP | MUSEUM STORE

Lincoln and Kansas: Partnership for Freedom by Carol Dark Ayers is just one of several books on Abraham Lincoln available in our Museum Store. The store will also feature special Lincoln gift items during our *Lincoln in Kansas* exhibit. Visit in person or shop online. kshs.org/store



Tax Credits – Unique Opportunity for Kansas Taxpayers

John Mallon of Emporia is one of the first Kansans to discover the benefit of the Partnership Historic Sites Tax Credit. This innovative new program allows donors to make a contribution to a qualifying historic site and receive a tax credit equal to 50 percent of their donation.

Mallon used the tax credits to make a gift to the William Allen White House State Historic Site. “The tax credit allowed me to make a larger gift, and therefore a larger impact, on the site,” Mallon said. “The William Allen White site does not receive any state funding, so it has to rely on support from private donors. There’s a great story being told at that site, and it would be a shame if we could no longer share that story with school children and other visitors.”

The Historical Society received \$34,500 in tax credit donations during the first year of the program in 2008. State Senator Derek Schmidt, a proponent of the Partnership Historic Sites Tax Credits, hopes that others will consider participating in the program. “In addition to decreasing one’s tax burden,” Schmidt said, “this is a great opportunity for those like myself who are interested in historic preservation to make a valuable impact on a historic site in our state.”

For fiscal year 2009, KSHS, Inc., received \$70,000 in available tax credits. Of that, \$8,000 has been allocated to donors to the state-owned historic sites; another \$62,000 is still available.

State agencies this year and next are facing serious budget reductions. The tax credit program can help the Historical

Society continue to preserve state historic sites and share those stories with Kansas school children and the public.

The Kansas Historical Society is both a state agency and a private foundation. KSHS, Inc., operates as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, which means donations are fully tax deductible.

Tax Credit Fund Opportunities

Goodnow House, Manhattan

Isaac Goodnow led the organization of the free-state community in present-day Manhattan and established what is now Kansas State University. He and his wife, Ellen, built their two-story stone house in 1861 in sight of the new college.

Goodnow House is the last of the 16 state-owned historic sites to be fully rehabilitated. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the home reflects domestic life in the late 1800s. The Historical Society is pursuing local and national grants and donations to stabilize and repair the house, barn, and outbuildings.

The site’s \$10,000 in tax credits require \$20,000 in donations to be fully utilized. Any funds donated will be used as a much-needed match to leverage major contributions.

Grinter Place, Kansas City

Annie Grinter, a Lenape (Delaware) Indian, and her husband, entrepreneur Moses Grinter, built their home overlooking the Delaware Crossing of the Oregon-California Trail on the Kansas River. Moses operated a ferry and Annie helped farm and care for their apple orchard.

Contribution range: \$1,000 - \$5,000 to receive 50 percent tax credit. Individuals and Kansas businesses interested in the tax credit program can contact Vicky Henley at 785-272-8681, ext. 201; vhenley@kshs.org.



Left to right, Goodnow House, Manhattan; Grinter Place, Kansas City; William Allen White House, Emporia.

Grinter Place is preserved as the oldest home in Wyandotte County and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Historical Society recently completed interior and exterior rehabilitation at Grinter Place with nearly \$200,000 from federal funds administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation. New exhibits are planned and portions of the site will be available as special event space.

The site's \$10,000 in tax credits require \$20,000 in donations to be fully utilized.

William Allen White House, Emporia

William Allen White, nationally known newspaperman and author, influenced state and national politics through his writings from the 1890s through World War II. White and his wife, Sallie, entertained several prominent Americans, including four presidents, in their Emporia home.

In 2001 William Allen White's granddaughter, Barbara White Walker, and her husband, David, donated the house and grounds to the Historical Society. The Kansas Legislature accepted the property with a proviso that no state funds could be used for the site. The Historical Society received \$698,460 in federal funds through the assistance of U.S. Senator Pat Roberts to restore the 6,000-square-foot house and return other site buildings and grounds to good physical condition. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. The K.T. Wiedemann Foundation made a donation of \$50,000 to the site to be used as operating funds for fiscal year 2009, and the Historical Society is urgently pursuing an endowment to keep the site preserved in perpetuity.

The site's \$20,000 in tax credits require \$40,000 in donations to be fully utilized.

General Sites Fund

The Kansas Legislature has not set aside dedicated funds for Kansas State Historic Sites. Private funds are needed to help restore, preserve, and operate the 16 state-owned historic sites.

The General Sites Fund received \$30,000 in tax credits from the Partnership Historic Sites this year. The \$30,000 in tax credits require \$60,000 in donations to be fully utilized. Donations to the General Sites Fund will be used as needs arise at the following state-owned sites. The Historical Society hopes to build an endowment with dedicated funds for each of the sites.

- Constitution Hall, LeCompton
- Cottonwood Ranch, Studley
- First Territorial Capitol, Fort Riley
- Fort Hays, Hays
- Goodnow House, Manhattan
- Grinter Place, Kansas City
- Hollenberg Pony Express Station, Hanover
- John Brown Museum, Osawatimie
- Kaw Mission, Council Grove
- Marais des Cygnes Massacre, Pleasanton
- Mine Creek Battlefield, Pleasanton
- Native American Heritage Museum, Highland
- Pawnee Indian Museum, Republic
- Pawnee Rock, Pawnee Rock
- Shawnee Indian Mission, Fairway
- William Allen White House, Emporia



Above, George Wylder filed this claim on his homestead in Oberlin County on July 18, 1881; right, scarcity of wood meant that settlers had to adapt to available resources. The family living on this Graham County farm south of Hill City built a sod home and kept a large supply of dried cow manure near the home to burn for heat.



Homesteaders in Kansas were challenged by drought, scarce natural resources, and economic cycles that threatened their survival. Winter was a particularly difficult time for Kansas farm families.

The 1862 Homestead Act granted 160 acres of land. Individuals were given five years to make satisfactory improvements and the land was theirs to keep. But such improvements were costly, especially in the western part of the state where wood was scarce. Settlers adapted by creating sod houses and dugouts, burning hay, corncobs, and cow or buffalo manure for fuel.

In 1874 the Felton family settled on a homestead in McPherson County. Family members had lumber hauled 40 miles from Salina to build their dwelling, and mother Elizabeth considered their 10 by 14 feet home to be a palace amid so many sod homes with dirt floors.

"We lived in the little homestead house for five years," wrote daughter Bessie Felton Wilson, "burning corn stalks for fuel both winter and summer." The family quickly outgrew the first home and her father constructed a larger

dwelling. "Not having sufficient means to finish it all at this time we slept in the upper rooms for several years without plaster," she wrote. "It was not unusual on awaking cold winter mornings to find the covers around our heads frozen and the bed white with snow which had been driven through tiny cracks in the roof by a strong wind during the night."

With the cold often came sickness. In January 1886 13-year-old Bessie contracted diphtheria. With no doctors nearby nor money to pay one, her mother treated the illness. Two years later, the same disease took the lives of four children of a nearby family – all within nine days.

These challenges, when added to those faced by farmers trying to cultivate the Kansas soil, caused many families to head farther west or go back east to find less severe living conditions. By 1890 nearly one-third of Kansas farms

were being operated by tenant farmers.

A woman contributor to the *Harper Sentinel*, identified only as "P.E.T." wrote in 1889, "It is hard work to come west to make a home. Few have the vim and back-bone to stay long enough to prove up their land under the homestead law. I don't want to brag, but we are going to try to be among the few. I'll tell you how we manage: There are four of us. My husband and two little boys (most too small to be of much use, but a great comfort) and myself comprise our family. This year everything was a failure in this county. Everybody left that could, but we have a few cattle and enough corn stalks to keep them alive till grass comes. I said 'we must stick to the land, old boy, just as long as we can raise the roughness to winter on.'"

Homesteaders had more to protect than just themselves and their home. P.E.T. wrote that she feared outlaws in a place where there was no law. She and her husband were proud of their team of mules and worried for their safety. "In this country a man's team is his living, and anyone stealing it takes the bread and butter out of his little children's mouths, making them as well as their parents suffer."

P.E.T. demonstrated the pioneer spirit, as she closed her letter to the *Sentinel*, "Times are hard, but I am generous and when you come 'out west' just stay awhile at our dug-out. You shall have pancakes and meat grease for breakfast – maybe a little coffee. Light bread for dinner, and mush and milk for supper the year round, with occasionally a young jack-rabbit fried with some milk gravy."

Those farmers who survived the challenges went on to build the state's agricultural heritage. Their farmhouses, barns, and silos stand as symbols of hardworking people who made Kansas the breadbasket of the nation.



With few trees or buildings on the prairie, homesteaders like this couple in Greeley County endured harsh winter winds and blowing snow.

SEARCH | KSHS.ORG



Little did homesteaders know when they were erecting their barns that they were creating today's icons of rural life. Visit our national and state register database to locate

Kansas barns and other structures. Search by property name, location, type of building, or architect. Many listings include photos, like this image of the Shafer Barn in Sheridan County. kshs.org/resource/national_register

BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Photographer L.W. Halbe took this image of his daughters, Blanche and Georgie, on their snow-covered lawn in Dorrance in January 1909. You can browse this and other winter Kansas images when you visit *Kansas*



Memory, the largest online collection of photographs and documents from Kansas history. kansasmemory.org

VISIT | STATE HISTORIC SITES

The Pratt family began building this Sheridan County home in 1885. It was made of native stone, and had a sod roof and earthen floor. That winter a blizzard brought temperatures so low that ice formed on the inside of the north wall. The Pratts made improvements to the home and it still stands as the centerpiece of Cottonwood Ranch State Historic Site. Discover the Pratt's story in this English ranch on the High Plains. kshs.org/places/cottonwood



Wal-Mart Presents Gift

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., is serious about giving back to the communities it serves. As part of that goal, Wal-Mart donated \$20,000 to help underwrite the Kansas Museum of History's upcoming exhibit, *The Need for Speed*.

"In our experience we can make the greatest impact in our communities by supporting issues and causes that are important to our customers and associates in their own neighborhoods," said Angie Stoner, Wal-Mart senior manager of public affairs and government relations. "We look forward to the partnership with the Kansas Historical Society and working with them to bring this very exciting exhibit to Kansas."

With a focus on the car culture of Kansas, *The Need for Speed* opens August 28, 2009, and runs through May 31, 2010. The exhibit examines early car history including manufacturers and the National Hot Rod Association's first national championship, which was in Kansas.



Museum Director Bob Keckeisen and Historical Society Executive Director Jennie Chinn accept a check from Angie Stoner of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Kansas native, championed the interstate highway system, which opened its first stretch in Kansas. The exhibit also explores food and entertainment that were part of the roadside experience.

"We're thrilled by Wal-Mart's interest in this exhibit," said Jennie Chinn, executive director, Kansas Historical Society. "Their gift will allow us to create interactive elements of our exhibit that would not have been possible without such support. Wal-Mart's generosity will enhance the visitor experience and will give us access to technology we can use in other exhibits for years to come."

HISTORY'S HEROES

Hollenberg Volunteers



LAVerle Duever enjoys sharing details about Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site with visitors. A 12-year volunteer at the site near Hanover, she especially likes showing off the mural of the Oregon-

California Trail. Extending from ceiling to floor, the mural by artist Charles Goslin offers a glimpse into the site's past with inspirations from the present.

"He made it very special for us," Duever said. "There are five local people portrayed along with two local oxen and a local horse."

The wide panorama depicts a long wagon train, a family in the foreground walks alongside. Located on the visitor center's east wall, the mural creates the sense of gazing back toward the historic station during the height of travel on the trail.

After retirement in 1996, Duever joined the site's volunteer program. She was drawn to the stories of the trail and the Pony Express and knew this was a way to keep in contact with others in the community. Duever is one of 16 who greet visitors, guide tours through the gallery and historic station, and answer questions. They provide regular support for the daily operation of the site and assist site administrator Duane Durst. Without their efforts, the site would not be able to sustain the tours and programming it currently offers.

Durst holds monthly meetings of the volunteers, who all live in Washington County. He gives updates, makes assignments, and works to build camaraderie. "We have a good group," Duever said. "We take care of each other."

In addition to daily operations, volunteers provide layout for the site's newsletter; assist with the school program, *Wagons Ho* (pictured left); produce the annual Pony Express Festival; and assist with Kansas Day programming.

Harlan Edmonds

Taking a great interest in preserving the past, Harlan Edmonds of Topeka became a member of the Historical Society in 1997. He enjoys reading the history journals, uses the library and archives to research family history, and frequently takes his grandchildren to the museum. It is the challenges ancestors overcame that Edmonds wants to remember, and why he feels supporting the Historical Society is so important.

"I think people should join the Historical Society to preserve what we have," Edmonds said, "to keep us educated about how we had to struggle."

Edmonds remembers a time with no phones, cars, televisions, or indoor restrooms. He recalls hard times growing up during the Great Depression on a family farm in rural Winchester. "There were times my parents didn't have any money," Edmonds said, "but we had plenty of food."

He attended elementary and middle school in a series of one-room schoolhouses before graduating from Winchester High. Edmonds vividly recollects the high school principal calling students together to listen to the radio on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Not long after, Edmonds decided to continue the family tradition of military service, following in the footsteps of his father who had served in World War I. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 8th Armored Division in Europe during World War II. His unit saw action in the Battle of the Bulge and crossed the Rhine to secure roads and bridges leading up to the end of the war.

Edmonds returned in 1946 and married Joanne in 1950. He served in the Korean conflict and then graduated from Washburn University with a business degree before joining American Home Insurance. He worked in the insurance industry most of his career and was co-owner of a Culligan Water franchise for seven years before selling the business.

Edmonds, who has two sons, Jim and Daryl, is retired and enjoys traveling, gardening, playing golf, and researching his family's heritage. Membership in the Historical Society offers him a chance to bring his grandchildren to the museum as often as he likes. "It pays for the five of them to know what our forefathers did," Edmonds said, "to make life easier for them today."



BECOME A MEMBER

Membership support enables the Historical Society's programs to continue. The cost of membership remains only \$40 annually, members receive free entrance to the museum and all state historic sites, a discount at KSHS stores and on online purchases, as well as quarterly issues of *Reflections* and the award-winning *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. More information available at kshs.org/joinkshs, by calling 785-272-8681, ext. 209; or membership@kshs.org.



Biplane Built in Topeka

On a warm, late summer afternoon in 1911, three men rolled a large wooden airship into the middle of a hayfield southeast of Topeka. They made a brief inspection, started the engine, and held firm as the ship shook and pulled against their grip. One of the men climbed into the pilot's seat, signaled the release, and lifted the ship on her maiden voyage. Rising but two feet from the ground and covering a distance of 200 feet before descending, pilot Albin K. Longren made the first successful flight of a Kansas-made airplane.

Following this test on September 2, 1911, Longren, brother E. J. Longren, and mechanic William Janicke repeated the testing with increasing competency before sharing their success with the public. For the eighth flight, amidst onlookers, Longren completed two circles over the field at 200 feet and covered six miles. They christened the biplane *Topeka I*.

"It was the best one yet," Longren told the *Topeka Daily Capital*. "There wasn't a time that I didn't feel I had the bird under my control. I'm glad now to let the people of Topeka know what I've built."

Longren had spent several years planning and five weeks constructing his airship. An automobile businessman in Clay Center, Longren was inspired to build a flying machine when he witnessed a flight exhibition. In July 1911 his team rented the second floor of a building on Quincy Street in Topeka and began to construct a large biplane. He kept quiet news of his invention. To maintain

secrecy, the team dismantled the aircraft and transported it in a truck to the test site.

"I didn't want to make a lot of noise until I knew what I could do," Longren said.

Topeka I was equipped with a rear pusher propeller, steering wheel, and three-wheel landing gear. The pilot regulated speed with a right foot pedal accelerator. To adjust the plane's attitude or pitch, the pilot leaned from side to side and moved the back of the seat. To conserve weight, Longren selected lightweight materials – spruce, ash, bamboo, and wire cables for bracing. The wings were covered with rubberized Goodyear aeroplane fabric. The new biplane was 39 feet long, 625 pounds, with a 32 feet wingspan, and powered by an 8 cylinder, 60 horsepower Hall-Scott engine.

The September 6, 1911, issue of the *Topeka Daily Capital* described Longren's first public flight. "He seemed in perfect control of his machine and the planes glided along

through the air as smoothly as if they had been resting on the ground. There was not a ripple in the pathway, the craft cut through the sky, the turns were made in veteran style and the second circle was completed before Longren dropped lightly to the ground.”

“After the machine leaves the ground all thought of anything but making a good flight leaves me,” Longren said. “You see I’ve wanted to do this so long that now it is possible I can’t think of anything but doing it.”

With the success of *Topeka I*, Longren promoted his aircraft on barnstorming tours. He grew the aviation company and continued to make refinements to his designs. Longren moved his factory to Oakland, on Topeka’s east side, and began work on a new plane. Available by mailorder, *The New Longren*, Model AK, entered production in 1921. Sturdier than earlier models, the plane featured folding wings that allowed it to fit in a garage and be towed behind a car. *The New York Times* featured a photograph of Longren refueling the plane at a service station. Due to limited funding and too few sales, the company closed in 1926. Longren eventually founded a successful aviation manufacturing company in California, which operated until shortly before his death in 1950.

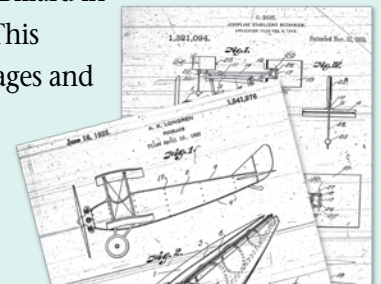
VISIT | KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Longren No. 5, built in 1914 using the engine and radiator from the first plane built, is on exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History in Topeka. The plane was owned by Phillip Billard (pictured below) and was donated to the Historical Society in 1938 after Billard’s death. kshs.org/places/museum



BROWSE | KANSAS MEMORY

Photographs of Longren’s airplanes, factories, sketches, and articles can be found online in *Kansas Memory*. Included are images of Longren, views of his patents, and photos of Billard in *Longren No. 5* (above). This digital collection of images and documents chronicles the stories of Kansas. kansasmemory.org



DISCOVER | COOL THINGS

In 1915 Longren was demonstrating No. 5 at the Dickinson County Fair when he crashed shortly after takeoff. He was seriously injured. After recovering from his injuries, he repaired the plane and sold it to pilot Phillip Billard. Billard himself was killed while testing another plane in France in 1918 during World War I. Find out more in our Cool Things article. kshs.org/cool2/biplane.htm



The Longren aircraft factory is pictured around 1920 in Topeka.

Happening at KSHS



Bleeding Kansas 2009 Program Series, Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

Join us 2 p.m. Sundays, January 25 – March 1, for a series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent conflict over the slavery issue in Kansas Territory 1854 through 1861. Topics include legendary Kansans in the state capitol, Lecompton during territorial Kansas, Abraham Lincoln, and Governor Andrew Reeder.

kshs.org/places/constitution

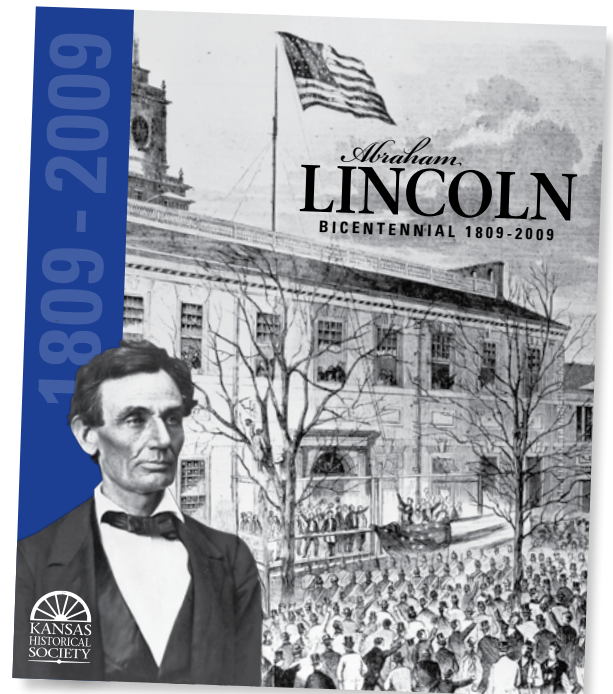
Kansas Day, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka



Students from across the state are invited to join us as we celebrate our state's 148th birthday on January 29, 2009. This year's theme is Lincoln in Kansas, and coincides with the special exhibit of the same name.

Students can see live

performances by a Lincoln re-enactor and an African American drummer and storyteller. For those who cannot make the trip to the museum, there are Kansas Day classroom materials online and several celebrations at state historic sites. kshs.org/teachers/fieldtrips/kansasday



Lincoln in Kansas exhibit, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

This special exhibit runs January 29 – July 26, 2009, and commemorates the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth and the sesquicentennial of his visit to Kansas. Artifacts and images tell the story of his political career, from the Lincoln-Douglas debates through his assassination. Items in the exhibit include Lincoln presidential campaign medals and pins, an "Admit Me Free" flag used in the 1860 campaign, and a blood-stained piece of a theatre program from the night Lincoln was shot. kshs.org/exhibits/current/upcoming.htm



Available now at the Museum Store!

This year's official state of Kansas ornament for Washington, D.C., commemorates the University of Kansas 2008 NCAA Basketball Championship. These ornaments decorate the Kansas tree in Washington, D.C., and were designed by Topekan Anita Wolgast. The ornaments are \$30 and may be purchased in the Museum Store or online at kshs.org/store.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Online at kshs.org/calendar

Through January 4, 2009

Forces of Nature

Exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

December 20, 2008

Holiday Open House

Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site, Pleasanton

December 25-26, 2008

State holiday

All sites closed

December 27, 2008

State Archives & Library closed

January 25-March 1, 2009 (Sundays)

Bleeding Kansas 2009 Programs

Constitution Hall State Historic Site, Lecompton

January 28, 2009

Kansas Day celebration

Hollenberg Pony Express Station State Historic Site,
Hanover

January 29, 2009

Kansas Day celebration

Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 29, 2009

Kansas Day celebration

Goodnow House State Historic Site, Manhattan

January 29, 2009

Kansas Day celebration

Fort Hays State Historic Site, Hays

January 29-July 26, 2009

Lincoln in Kansas

Exhibit at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

Correction

James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok was incorrectly identified in the Autumn 2008 issue.

Winter 2008

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Governor of Kansas

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Kansas Memory

Inspired by the holiday season and our photo collection, the Kansas Historical Society has created a set of greeting cards available for sale in the Museum Store. The set includes three each of four different images depicting winter and the holiday season in Kansas. Browse these and other wintertime images when you visit kansasmemory.org. This photo, taken in the 1940s, features a Kansas family gathered around a Christmas tree.

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